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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/438,247	11/12/1999	JUNJI NISHIGAKI	15162/01290	9067

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SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
717 NORTH HARWOOD
SUITE 3400
DALLAS, TX 75201

EXAMINER

KASSA, YOSEF

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/438,247

Applicant(s)

NISHIGAKI ET AL.

Examiner

YOSEF KASSA

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments/amendment see the remark on page 2-4, filed on 08/14, 2006, with respect to rejections of claims 1-16 have been fully considered and are persuasive. However, upon further consideration, a new ground of rejection is made on Mita et al (U.S. Patent 5,692,210), and further in view of Simpson et al (U.S. Patent 6,185,629).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mita et al (U.S. Patent 5,692,210), and further in view of Simpson et al (U.S. Patent 6,185,629).

With regard to claim 1, Mita et al disclose a plurality of processors (please refer to item 1603, in Fig. 30, comprises multiple processors, also refer to col. 17, lines 62-67) processing respective portions of the same input image data (please refer to col. 2, lines 28-36, note that block selected from the same input image data) in parallel with each other (please refer to col. 2, lines 41-45) and outputting respective processed portions of said input image data (please refer to Fig. 39, note that the output from processor unit is input to memory); and

an address memory (accepting) and storing address information related to a position of each portion of said input image data within said input image data for each respective portion of image data which have been processed by said plurality of processors (please refer to col. 2, lines 46-60 and also refer to col. 18, lines 1-8 and also).

Mita et al did not disclose expressly for an address memory accepting process. However, at the same field of endeavor, Simpson discloses this feature (please refer to col. 12, lines 50-60, which reads on the process of controller 80 controlling accessing memory activities). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching Simpson memory controlling process into Mita parallel processing system. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide controlling the memory so that the memory area in the memory is accessed according to controller 80 (please refer to col. 12, lines 50-60 of Simpson). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Simpson with Mita to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

With regard to claim 2, Mita et al disclose an image memory storing said image data output from said plurality of processors (please refer to Fig. 30, items 1603 and 1602, the output from processors 1603 is stored in memory 1602, also refer to col. 17, lines 62-67), and read means reading (scanning) said image data from said image memory on the basis of said address information stored in said address memory (please refer to col. 18, lines 65-col. 19, lines 5).

With regard to claim 3, Mita et al disclose further comprising an image memory storing said image data output from said plurality of processors along the sequence of addresses on the basis of said address information stored in said address memory (please refer to col. 19, lines 1-18).

With regard to claim 5, Mita et al disclose wherein said plurality of processors also output arrangement information corresponding to said processed portions of said image data (please refer to col. 19, lines 15-25).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 6-16 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The closest prior art of record failed to teach or suggest, a first memory accepting and storing arrangement information in single image data for plurality of divided data arrangement information for each of said plurality of divided data being associated with whichever processor performs the prescribed processing of the divided data; and a controller restoring a single image from plurality of data processed in said plurality of processors in accordance with said arrangement information. Therefore, in combination with all the other limitations claims 6-16 are allowable.

5. Claims 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Other Prior Art Cited

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. (6233361), (6188693), (6188440) and (5887079).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOSEF KASSA whose telephone number is (571) 272-7452. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular communication and (571) 273-8300 for after Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PATENT EXAMINER

Yosef Kassa

10/29/2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y Kassa', is positioned to the right of the printed name.